

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear violation of the almost-extinguished fairness doctrine. It is also an example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves--MY airwaves-- free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. The public interest is not served by airing only one side of an issue, or material biased for, or against, only one candidate for an office. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line or much more dangerously, supportive of a specific ideology. We get less real information, less discussion and debate, and thus less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.